

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"



Tim Gallagher, Director

June 15, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE AMENDMENTS FOR
AS-NEEDED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS
(All Districts - Three Vote Matter)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

- 1 Find that approval of the Agreement extensions are categorically exempt project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to execute amendments with Sapphos Environmental, Inc., EDAW, P&D Consultants, and ESA to extend the term of the existing agreements on a month-to-month basis, until a Countywide Environmental Consultant Program is approved by your Board.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

On September 5, 2000, your Board approved as-needed environmental services agreements with the aforementioned consultants to prepare complex environmental documents that conform to all capital improvement grant requirements, and/or State and Federal environmental regulations. The increase in the number of proposed park acquisition and development projects that resulted from voter approval of the County "Proposition A" Measures of 1992 and 1996 and the State "Proposition 12" Measure of 2000 created an even greater need for these services.

These agreements expire on June 30, 2004, and the Department is requesting a month-to-month extension to these agreements pending your Board's approval of a County-wide, As-Needed Planning and Environmental Consultant Program currently under development by the Chief Administrative Office (CAO). The CAO is planning to present its recommendations for the County-wide program to your Board in early August, 2004.

The recommended extensions to the Department's current agreements will terminate upon approval by your Board of the CAO's County-wide program.

In addition to preparing the required environmental documents, including negative declarations and environmental impact reports, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for park acquisition and development projects, the consultants assist in the preparation and submission of documentation necessary to obtain regulatory permits from agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Game, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Department of Agriculture, and the Forest Service. Preparation of environmental documents will be required for the preparation of a Habitat Conservation Plan for Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park and a Conservation Agreement for Deane Dana/Friendship Community Regional Park with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, an environmental feasibility study will be required for the potential development of soccer fields at Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed amendments will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal 3, Organizational Effectiveness, by utilizing environmental firms to provide specialized consulting services required to implement the Department's various capital projects.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Funding for the as-needed environmental services is primarily provided through the Department's capital project budgets, which are financed through various grant programs and net County cost provided in the Department's Capital Projects/Refurbishments Budget. The Department has also appropriated \$50,000 in the 2004-05 operating budget to fund various as-needed services not associated with a particular project.

Throughout the extension period, the fee schedule shall remain fixed according to the amounts negotiated when the contracts were executed in September 2000.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On September 5, 2000, your Board approved the as-needed environmental agreements with Sapphos Environmental, Inc., EDAW, P&D Consultants, and ESA for a two-year

initial term with two one-year options through June 30, 2004. Due to the present number of projects, it is necessary to extend these agreements until a new solicitation is completed and a competitive process is conducted. The extension of these contracts is based on an administrative function without the benefit of a review of performance or guarantee of future projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The approval of the contract extensions is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15061 (b) (3) of the State CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that it will have no significant effect on the environment.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Upon execution of a countywide master agreement, the Department will execute agreements with firms on the County list and terminate these existing agreements with Sapphos Environmental, Inc., EDAW, P&D Consultants, and ESA.


IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of these amendments will enable the Department to receive specialized expertise to develop and process the complex environmental documents that are required for park acquisition and development projects.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that one (1) conformed copy be sent to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectively submitted,

For 
Tim Gallagher
Director

TG:LG:tls

c: Executive Officer (22)